reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Checking Deficit in Oil Pool Account

†114. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deficit in Oil Pool is continuously increasing despite heavy increase in price of diesel;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to check this deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies from the Oil Pool Account are estimated to be around Rs. 6,000 crores as on 31.3.2000.

(c) The position of the Oil Pool Account is monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

Regularisation of Contract Employees with Diploma Degrees

115. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to answer to Starred Question No. 271 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether EIL have regularised the services of several contract employees/daily wage employees having diploma in engineering after the presentation of Third and Fourth Pay Commission Reports; and

(b) if so, the details of such appointments, year-wise with service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LPG Agency in Kangra District, H.P.

116. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 57 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1999 and state whether in the District Kangra LPG distributorship at Nagrota, Lambagaon, Pragpur and Ranital have started functioning, if so, from which date in each case and if not, the reason for delay and by which time these will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): LPG distributorship at Nagrota Surian and at Ranital have been commissioned on 31.8.1999 and 25.1.2000 respectively. Interviews for the LPG distributorships at Lambgaon and Pragpur have not yet been conducted by the Dealer Selection Board. Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved.

Engaging the Services of Private Placement Companies in EIL

117. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineers India Limited (EIL) have engaged the services of private placement companies for obtaining services of contract employees;

(b) if so, how many employees have been recruited through these private placement agencies with the names of such companies; and

(c) whether some of the contract employees taken from these private companies have been regularised and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF